



WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
EASTER TIDE • APRIL 20 TO JUNE 8
ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION
6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER • MAY 25, 2025

PRAYER FOR PREPARATION

Astonishing God, you give us a vision of the heavenly city, the new Jerusalem, your home among mortals on earth. All people and nations will stream to your city where they will find nourishment, healing, and peace. Even now your blessing shines upon all the earth to help us see a larger vision of your loving care for all creation. And so you call us to move beyond our comfortable circles, and into unfamiliar places, as we seek to share your dream of a world made new in Christ. Amen.

THE GATHERING
PREPARING TO HEAR THE WORD

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor John E. Morgan

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

John Smith

MINUTE FOR MISSION: Community Connections Fellowship Breakfast

Joseph Kinard

PRELUDE

Streams of Gladness

Utterback

*Please rise in body or spirit. The people's responses are in **bold type**.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Glorious God, this is indeed the day which you have made.

All: You cause new life to burst forth with beauty and fragrance.

Leader: You adorn the creation with splendor and grandeur.

All: We lift our voices to sing your praises. Help us to walk in the confidence of Christ's company, and look forward to the day when we will dine with him in glory.

Leader: Surround us now with the assurance of your Holy Spirit as we sing,

All: Alleluia, Christ is risen indeed!

*HYMN 375

Shall We Gather at the River

HANSON PLACE

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Do not let your hearts be troubled, but confess your sins and God will give you peace.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Redeeming God, you bring life out of dead ends, and hope in the midst of despair. Forgive us for doubting that you are still at work even in the darkest hour, even in the most painful moments. Forgive us for our hesitant action, our cautious compassion, our too-frequent reluctance.

Redeeming God, teach us a stillness that leads to acts of kindness and clarity of vision. Shape in us a trust that leads to faithful witness and bold compassion. Form us in your love that loosens our worry and eases our anger. Make us true disciples filled with love, acting with justice, and living out hope. Amen.

A TIME FOR SILENT PRAYER

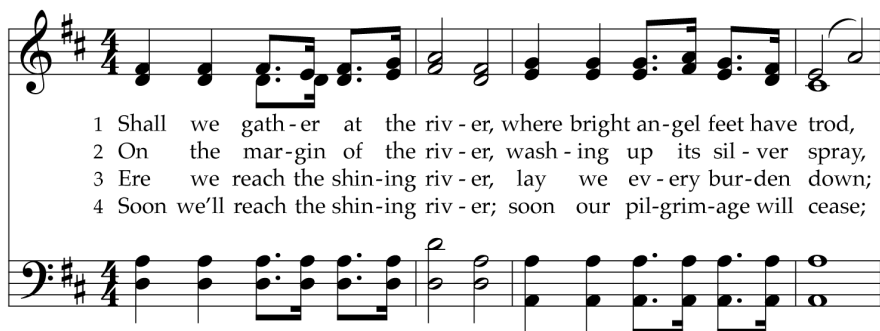
*KYRIE

Lord, Have Mercy

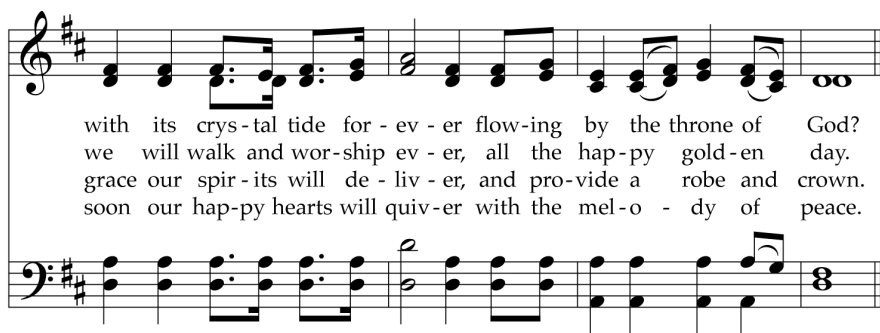
LAND OF REST



375 Shall We Gather at the River



1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

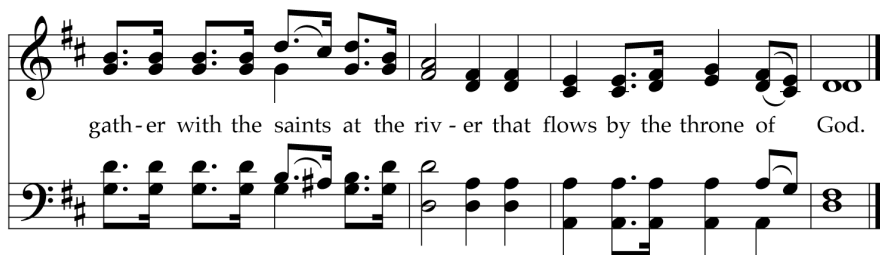


with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
 grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;



gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

A Baptist pastor wrote this hymn while seated at his parlor organ. Created as an alternative to gloomy "river of death" hymns, it is a celebration of the "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1 KJV).

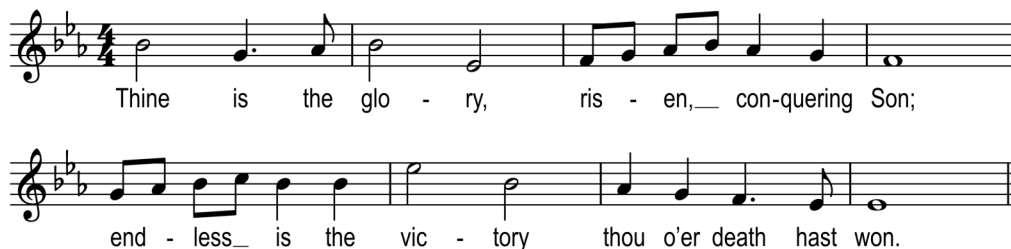
***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Leader: Let your hearts be still, for God loves you and forgives all your wrongdoing. Beloved, receive the peace of Christ.

***GLORIA**

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS



**At this time any and all children through the 5th grade
are invited to come forward for Sharing Faith with Children.**

(11:00) SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Jim Kirkpatrick

(11:00) ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICER

Pastor John E. Morgan

Please see insert for Ordination and Installation liturgy.

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (unison)

John Smith

Living God, you sent your apostle to preach the gospel to women gathered by a river, in a secluded place of prayer. There a businesswoman named Lydia was led by the Spirit to hear your word as truth. You opened her heart in love, and she opened her home for the spreading of the gospel. By the power of your Holy Spirit, fling wide the doors of our hearts this day as we hear your word of life, that we too may open our lives to serve your world in love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5

John Smith

**This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!**

PSALM 67 (unison)

May God be gracious to us and bless us
and make his face to shine upon us,
that your way may be known upon earth,
your saving power among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
The earth has yielded its increase;
God, our God, has blessed us.
May God continue to bless us;
let all the ends of the earth revere him.

SECOND LESSON: Acts 16:9-15

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

"Down by the Riverside"

Pastor John E. Morgan

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***HYMN 490**

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

BEACH SPRING

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: FROM A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH** (unison)

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Capo 3: (D) F (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat

1 Wash, O God, your sons and daugh-ters, new - born crea - tures
 2 Ev - ery day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may
 3 O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag - ined,

(D) F (Bm) Dm

of your womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
 we be fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
 all your ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

(G) B \flat (D) F (A) C

Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
 bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
 lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

(Bm) Dm (F \sharp m) Am (Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (A) C (D) F

spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light. Fill, a - noint them;
 foot - steps, free from sin and all its snares, one with Christ in
 fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your grace, our

(Bm) Dm (G) B \flat (D) F

send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
 liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
 lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

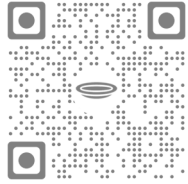
Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This text incorporates many of the images associated with the water of baptism in the Thanksgiving Over the Water in *The Book of Common Worship*, especially nourishment, the calling forth of life, cleansing and renewal, freedom from bondage, and sharing in Christ's resurrection.

OFFERING

Thank you for your continued faithful stewardship to WPC. May our offerings continue to help us be the light for our neighbors and our siblings in Christ all over the world. Offering envelopes can be found inside the friendship register book. We invite you to make your offering or pledge payment in one of the following ways:

- Place your offering into the plates as you exit the sanctuary
- Visit mywpc.org/offering or scan the QR code at the right to give online
- Mail your offering to the church office at 215 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.



OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Down by the Riverside

arr. John Rutter

I'm goin' to lay down my heavy load down by the riverside,
Down by the riverside, down by the riverside,
I'm goin' to lay down my heavy load down by the riverside,
I ain't gonna study war no more.

Refrain:

I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more,
I ain't gonna study war no more.

I'm goin' to lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside...
(Refrain)

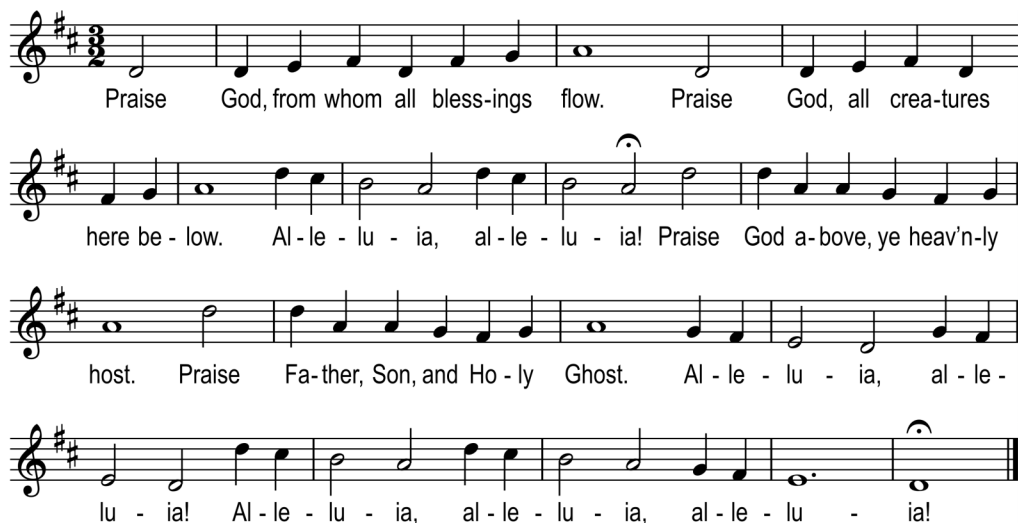
I'm goin' to put on my trav'lin' shoes down by the riverside...
(Refrain)

I'm goin' to put on my long white robe down by the riverside...
(Refrain)

I'm goin' to put on my starry crown down by the riverside... (Glory, glory hallelujah)
(Refrain)

DOXOLOGYPraise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

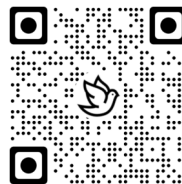
***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOING OUT TO BE THE CHURCH

***INVITATION AND THE LORD'S DAY GREETING**

We are glad you are worshiping with us today. If you are joining us online, please remember to 'sign' our online friendship register:

- Click on the *Welcome to WPC!* Click here to sign the Friendship Register banner at the top of the website page
- Visit mywpc.org/friendship or scan the QR code at the right to access the online friendship register.

***HYMN 41***O Worship the King, All Glorious Above*

LYONS

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION*POSTLUDE***Euphrates Trumpet*

Utterback

The service of worship concludes after the postlude. The music can be enjoyed or used as an opportunity for prayer. You may remain seated; if you wish to depart, please do so quietly and without disturbing those who choose to stay.

41 O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1 O wor - ship the King, all glo - rious a - bove!
 2 O tell of God's might; O sing of God's grace,
 3 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

O grate - ful - ly sing God's power and God's love:
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space,
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old;
 It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 whose char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form;
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,
 it streams from the hills; it de - scends to the plain,
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor and gird - ed with praise.
 and bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend.

Addressing the first two stanzas to the singers of the hymn and the last three to God, this free paraphrase of Psalm 104 recasts the psalmist's imagery with baroque verve. Though it was first published in England, the tune has been more popular in North America than there.

❧ NOTES ABOUT TODAY'S MUSIC ❧

"Down by the Riverside" is a spiritual that dates back to before the American Civil War. The song refers to biblical imagery such as baptism (the white robe) and heaven (the starry crown), and the "riverside" is of course the River Jordan. The song is a popular New-Orleans-style jazz standard, and today's arrangement reflects some of that history, particularly in the piano part.

The arranger, John Rutter, has published hundreds of choral compositions, including many Christmas carols. Rutter was knighted by King Charles in June of last year.

Our prelude and postlude are by jazz composer Joe Utterback. They are drawn from a larger suite of music, Hudson River Voluntaries, inspired by scriptural references to rivers. The prelude is based on Psalm 46:4 (There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High), while the postlude is based on Revelation 22:1 (Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb).

❧ THE CHANCEL FLOWERS ❧

The flowers are given today to the glory of God and in loving memory
of her husband, Marshall, and their May 25th wedding anniversary
by Freda Atkins.

⌘ THOSE SERVING THIS MORNING ⌘

PASTOR

John E. Morgan, Pastor, Head of Staff

Pam Hrcir, Associate Pastor

MUSIC MINISTRY

Christopher Bechtler, Director of Music

Norman Elton, Organist and Assistant Director of Music

WPC Chancel Choir

PROGRAM STAFF

Melody Dillon, Director of Children and Family Ministries

SHARING FAITH WITH CHILDREN

Jim Kirkpatrick

LITURGIST

John Smith

GREETER

9:30am Bill Riffer, Patty Yewcic

11:00am Dick Hubbard, Mike Hawley

USHERS

9:30am Matthew Underwood, Pat Underwood, John VanAken, David Littell

11:00am Bob Bolstad, Martha Jean Howell, Jerry Howell, Ric Cheston

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

Sarah Dulaney, Sarah Houghland

***WILLIAMSBURG LANDING USHERS**

Linda Eichhorn and Sharon Del Custer

***WINDSOR MEADE USHER**

Ray Whitney

AUDIO AND VIDEO TECHNICIANS: Jim Marshburn and John Schoenberger

*Satellite campuses

✧ CHILDREN'S STATEMENT ✧

Children are welcome at WPC! We have Sunday School for all ages at 9:30am and a nursery for children ages 3 and below during our 9:30am service. We also have children's worship bags and sensory objects available to be borrowed while in the building. Please ask an usher if you need assistance in locating anything.

The way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to The Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know, and let us show them, that they are at home in this house of worship. Parents, feel free to sit near the front where children can see, explain the parts of the service to them, and invite them to learn by watching and copying. And relax, God put the wiggle in children, so don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

✧ SUPPORT FOR OUR MEMBERS ✧

- **In need of one-on-one prayer?** Please look for a **Stephen Minister** in the Fellowship Hall or the church foyer after the morning services. They will find a private place to talk and pray with you. **Just look for the blue Stephen Ministry name tags.**
- **Monthly grief support group** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10am in room 220 on the second level. During this meeting we check in with one another and occasionally watch videos about a specific grief topic. All are welcome to attend.

✧ PRAYER CONCERNS, JOYS, & TOUCH NOTES ✧

To share a joy or concern, please visit www.mywpc.org, select GET CARE on the menu bar, then PRAYER REQUEST from the drop-down menu. Complete the form and click SEND REQUEST on the bottom of the form. Per your instructions, your request will be shared with our pastors, prayer chain or will be included in the worship bulletin. If the internet is not available to you, please call the church office (757) 229-4235 with your request. The Prayer Chain Coordinator is Jo Ann Youhas (handbellringer2@gmail.com). Please notify Jo Ann when you would like to remove your name from the prayer chain.

If you are in need of a pastor after hours or on the weekend with an emergency request, please contact the Pastor-on-Call listed below for this week. During the week, please call the church office.

Sunday, May 25 – Saturday, May 31 • Pastor Pam • phrncir@mywpc.org • 757-508-4668

The WPC Family extends its deepest Christian sympathy and prayers to:

- Mary Jo Siclari and family on the death of her husband, WPC member Bob Siclari, who went home to be with our Lord and Savior on Sunday, May 18, 2025. A Memorial Service for Bob will be held at 11:00am, Friday, June 20, 2025 in our Sanctuary followed by a reception in Stevenson Hall.
- The family of WPC member Romy Hollerith, who went home to be with our Lord and Savior on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Arrangements are pending.

Please pray for:

- Denny Yiengst, Nell Stowe, and families who have recently lost loved ones.

Please pray for those:

- Recovering from various surgeries, who are homebound, who have family and friend concerns, affected by natural disasters, affected by acts of gun violence, attending and serving in the school systems, serving our country in the military services and their families, serving our country in leadership roles, affected by the possibility of job loss, experiencing homelessness and hunger, affected by the wars in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, and Ukraine.

❧ ANNOUNCEMENTS ❧

- **Fraud Seminar scheduled for Sunday, June 1, at 12:15pm.** Join us for a 1-hour interactive seminar to learn about the latest false advertising and scams. Get informed! Sign up in the back lobby or on-line via our Friday, Looking Ahead email. Light snacks served.
- **Our summer nursery hours have begun! Throughout the summer, we will only have the nursery open during the 9:30 service.** We are still looking for volunteers for summer nursery! Please reach out to Melody Dillon (mdillon@mywpc.org) or sign up online to help. Thank you!
- **Christian Outreach Ministry Initiative: “Offering of Letters.” WPC will once again participate in the initiative which began on Saturday, May 17 and runs through May 31.** This year’s effort urges congressional support of child nutrition programs in the U.S. and abroad. The “Offering of Letters” is a nationwide effort sponsored by the Bread for the World organization, a well-known and established collective Christian voice urging Congress to help end hunger at home and abroad, and is supported by PC(USA). This initiative involves writing letters to our senators and representatives. As a PC(USA) Hunger Action Congregation WPC strives to be a public policy witness for programs such as the “Offering of Letters.” We ask that you prayerfully consider participating in this effort. The Offering of Letters will be conducted virtually via the church website. For participation details, visit mywpc.org/letters. Contact Jim Winthrop* or Pete Osman* with any questions.
- **Summer Sign-Ups for Coffee Fellowship Hosts, Ushers, and Greeters continues!** Have you been looking for an opportunity to share your smile and meet new people on Sunday mornings? Please stop by the tables in Stevenson Hall between services today through June 1st to learn more and sign up to host Coffee Fellowship, Usher, or Greet during the months of June and July. Coffee Fellowship Deacons, Ushers, and Greeters will be available to answer your questions. No previous experience necessary and all ages are welcome! Feel free to sign up online from the comfort of your home by visiting mywpc.org/usher, mywpc.org/greeter, or mywpc.org/coffee to serve in any of these roles.
- **Letting the Cat Out of the Bag–The Presbyterian Women invite you to celebrate with us at the Annual Birthday Luncheon, Wednesday, May 28 at 11am in Stevenson Hall.** Enjoy a delightful program about cats in art from Lisa Smith, a volunteer docent at CW and the Muscarelle Museum. Learn more and register at mywpc.org/pw-spring, or in person in the back door lobby area.
- **Community Connections Fellowship Breakfast on Saturday, June 7, 8am:** Please come to enjoy breakfast in Stevenson Hall and hear Tonia Merideth and Elizabeth Drembus’ presentation. Tonia’s focus will be on the oral histories of Bray School descendants. Free and enslaved Black students attended the Bray School in the mid 1700s. Elizabeth will share her research on the genealogy of the students.

We will be joined by church members from the First Baptist Church and the Williamsburg Baptist Church who are nearly as close to the original Bray School as WPC--about one block away. The Bray School building has been re-discovered and moved to the corner of Nassau and Francis Streets where, after extensive restoration, it will re-open to the public on June 19, (Juneteenth) 2025. \$10 will be collected at the door to cover breakfast. Thank you in advance for support this new ministry!

- **Housing Partnerships Service Opportunity: Saturday, June 7 from 9:00am-12pm** (approximately), WPC members will augment our annual financial benevolence to Williamsburg Housing Partnerships (HP) by providing more “hands on” support. HP’s mission is to repair or replace substandard housing in Williamsburg, James City County, and York County, and it has been doing so since 1985. Typically the work involves painting, yard work, or debris removal. No particular skills are required – just a willingness to help our neighbors have safe and comfortable housing. If you are interested in participating please sign up at <https://www.mywpc.org/hp>. If you have any questions, please contact Jim Winthrop* or Parker Slack*. The Christian Outreach Ministry thanks you for considering this opportunity.

- **Our next New Member Orientation Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, June 8, 2025, immediately after the 11:00am worship service.** Come and enjoy great food and great conversation with members and staff as you get to know the people and ministries of WPC. If the Holy Spirit is nudging you to become a part of this church community, see Pastor Pam (phrncir@mywpc.org) after the service.
- **Cookies are still needed: WPC members Michael Smith and C.W. Stacks will join 25 other men from churches throughout eastern Virginia for a Prison Ministry program June 4-8 at the Nottoway Correctional Center.** As part of this ministry, Michael and C.W. will distribute thousands of homemade cookies to all of the prison's inmates, and they need your help.

Cookie Kits are available in the Welcome Center. Each kit has three Ziploc bags and instructions. Cookies need to conform to those instructions and be dropped off at the WPC kitchen no later than Tuesday, June 3. If you drop them off before June 3, please put them in the freezer and label your cookies "Kairos" or "Prison Ministry."

- **Summer Meals for Kids Returns: This program supporting hungry students in the Williamsburg/James City County school system is in its 8th year of service.** Once again, this year we are partnering with Williamsburg Community Chapel, Walnut Hills Baptist, and Williamsburg Baptist churches to prepare lunches for 250 children who are hungry because they are the recipients of meals at school when schools are in session.

- Volunteering is easy and fun! Please volunteer.
- Lunches are prepared at the Meals on Wheels location (at WISC, 5700 Warhill Trail)
- We start at 8:00am and are finished by 10:30am
- Our teams are responsible for Wednesdays, June 18 - August 20
- Contributions of home baked cookies for the lunches are also welcome and a great outlet for your baking talents!
- Donate by making checks payable to Williamsburg Area Meals on Wheels (subject line- Summer Meals for Kids) P.O. Box 709, Williamsburg, VA 23187

Learn more and sign up at mywpc.org/summer-meals. This is a great opportunity to serve those in need. Remember, Jesus said when we help the least of these, we are doing HIS will. It is also a great way to meet fellow Christians and to have fun as you work. **To help feed hungry children this summer, register at mywpc.org/summer-meals.**

*Contact information can be found in our online directory.

You may also contact the church office at 757-229-4235.

More information about the events and announcements listed above can be found on our website at mywpc.org/news/ or on the church calendar.

✧ THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE OF EVENTS ✧

SUNDAY, MAY 25

9:30am ONLY Nursery open during 9:30am worship service

9:30am Sunday School / Christian Education Wing

9:30am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Live-Stream Worship; visit mywpc.org to access

11:00am In-person Worship / Sanctuary; Listen at FM93.5 The Burg and AM740 or wmbgradio.com

5:30pm Youth Group / CE Wing

MONDAY, MAY 26 • Memorial Day

Church office is closed for the holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, May 27.

1:00pm Caregiver Support Group / Rm 123

TUESDAY, MAY 27

12:00pm Setup for Presbyterian Women's Birthday Luncheon / Stevenson Hall

1:00pm Staff Meeting / Zoom

7:00pm AA Williamsburg Big Book Study / LL009 and LL049

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28

7:30am Men's Bible & Bacon Study / Stevenson Hall

9:30am Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team Mtg / Rm 220

11:00am Presbyterian Women's Annual Birthday Lunch / Stevenson Hall

6:00pm Joyful Ringers Rehearsal / Bell Rm

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal / Choir Rm

THURSDAY, MAY 29

9:00am Sanctuary Cleaning

4:30pm Carol and Junior Choir Rehearsal / Stevenson Hall

FRIDAY, MAY 30

10:30am Soul Feast Class / Rm 220

SATURDAY, MAY 31

✧ NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP ✧

June 1, 2025 • 7th Sunday of Easter

Pastor John E. Morgan's sermon, "*Profits and Paul*" will be based on Acts 16:16-34.